

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE: Final Environmental Impact Statement, Shutdown of the River Water System at the Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina (DOE/EIS-0268).

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the DOE action evaluated in this environmental impact statement (EIS) is to shut down the Savannah River Site River Water System in order to save money; that is, to prevent further expenditure of the funds necessary to operate a system that has no current mission. In the *DOE Savannah River Strategic Plan*, DOE committed to identifying and disposing of excess infrastructure. The River Water System has been identified as potential surplus infrastructure. As its Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative, DOE proposes to shut down and maintain the River Water System and to place all or portions of the system in a standby condition that would enable restart if conditions or mission changes required system operation. Consequently, DOE prepared this draft EIS to evaluate potential environmental impacts and to assess reasonable alternatives to this action. In this document, DOE assesses the cumulative environmental impacts of shutting down the River Water System, examines the impacts of alternatives, and identifies measures available to reduce adverse impacts. Evaluations of impacts on water quality, air quality, ecological systems, land use, geologic resources, cultural resources, and the health and safety of onsite workers and the public are included in the assessment.

In addition to the Preferred Alternative, described above, and the No-Action Alternative, which consists of continuing to operate the River Water System, this EIS examines an alternative to shut down and deactivate the River Water System.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: In preparing this Final EIS, DOE considered comments received by letter and voice mail, and statements given at two public scoping meetings in North Augusta, South Carolina on December 4, 1996.

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